

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 ORM-01 DHA-02 L-01 H-01

INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAEE-00

DODE-00 OMB-01 IGA-01 /050 W
----- 080389

R 151325Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7626

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0696

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: KGDS

TAGS/ PINT, PINR, EK, GB

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEAN REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 082853; B) LIBREVILLE 0613

1. APRIL 12 EMBASSY RECEIVED FOLLOW-UP CALL FROM GOG OFFICIAL ON BEHALF OF EQUATORIAL GUINEAN REFUGEE LEADER FRANCISCO N'DONGO. N'DONGO WANTED TO KNOW IF DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE HE MADE TO CHARGE MARCH 31. OFFICIAL WAS INFORMED THAT N'DONGO COULD COME TO EMBASSY FOR REPLY TO REQUEST AND MEETING WAS SET FOR SAME AFTERNOON.

2. AT MEETING, CHARGE SPELLED OUT USG POSITION AS SET FORTH IN REFTEL A. N'DONGO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT SAYING THAT WITHOUT ASSISTANCE REFUGEES AND ANTI-MACIAS ELEMENTS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA WERE POWERLESS TO OVERTHROW CURRENT REGIME. AS RESULT, THEIR SUFFERINGS WOULD CONTINUE.

3. APRIL 12 WAS EQUATORIAL GUINEA DAY AT EMBASSY. DELEGATION
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FROM SECOND REFUGEE ORGANIZATION SHOWED UP MORNING OF

SAME DAY AS N'DONGO MEETING. THIS GROUP, COMMISSION OF EQUATORIAL GUINEAN REFUGEES, HAD SENT LETTER APRIL 10 TO EMBASSY REQUESTING MEETING (COPY BEING POUCHED DEPT) BUT DATE HAD NOT BEEN SET.

4. COMMISSION DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY EX-NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN MARTIN ESONO MITOGO AND INCLUDED EX-GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ANTONIO OWONO OBAMA AND LEANDO N'GUEMA. AFTER EXPLAINING THAT COMMISSION WAS OLDEST REFUGEE ORGANIZATION IN GABON WHICH NOW REPRESENTED MAJORITY OF REFUGEES HERE, ESONO MITOGO LAUNCHED INTO REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE THAT CLOSELY PARALLELED ONE MADE EARLIER BY N'DONGO. FOREARMED THIS TIME, CHARGE WAS ABLE TO TURN DOWN REQUEST TO VISIBLE CHAGRIN OF DELEGATION.

5. BOTH N'DONGO AND ESONO MITOGO SPOKE OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR UNHCR NOEL (BASED KINSHASA) BY NAME AND APPEARED FAMILIAR WITH HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF REFUGEES WITH GOG. BOTH ALSO EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM THAT BONGO NOW ABOUT READY TO GRANT OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO REFUGEES AND EVEN DISCREETLY SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW MACIAS. BOTH, HOWEVER, SAID THAT GOG WOULD HELP ONLY SOME OF REFUGEES IN GABON WHILE REST WOULD BE SENT BACK TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA. THEY INTERPRET CENSUS OF REFUGEES NOW BEING CARRIED OUT BY GOG AS PRELIMINARY STEP TO THESE ACTIONS.

6. N'DONGO AND ESONO MITOGO DRE POLITELY APPRECIATIVE WHEN INFORMED BY CHARGE OF USG SUPPORT FOR UNHCR EFFORTS TO HELP REFUGEES. HOWEVER, OBVIOUS THAT THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST IS OVERTHROW OF MACIAS AND EVENTUAL RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY AND USG POSITION OFFERS COLD COMFORT TO THEIR HOPES.

7. SEQUENCE OF VISITS BY N'DONGO AND ESONO MITOGO OBVIOUSLY NOT COINCIDENCE. BOTH GROUPS WERE AWARE OF RIVAL'S VISIT AND EACH ATTEMPTED TO DISCREDIT OTHER.

8. COMMENT: THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO OTHER ACTIONS OF EQUATORIAL GUINEAN REFUGEES IN LIBREVILLE THAT HAVE NOT YET APPROACHED EMBASSY. HOWEVER, SINCE WORD OF USG POSITION HAS

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UNDOUBTEDLY NOW SPREAD THROUGHOUT ALL GROUPS, WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY NEBPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE SPANISH IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. DEJARNETTE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 APR 1976
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